



WEETING VILLAGE LIFE



March 2025
Edition 49

SHROVE TUESDAY

Fundraiser for St Mary's Church, Weeting



Tuesday 4 March - St Mary's Church

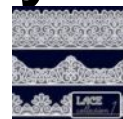
4.00pm - 6.30pm

Children £3.50

Adult £6.00



- Sponsor Rev. Juanita Hawthorne's hair shave - Hair to be donated to The Princess Trust to make wigs for young cancer patients. To donate, go to justgiving.com and select St Mary's Church, Weeting
- Eat as many pancakes as you want. (Max 6)
- Prize for the most pancake flips in 20 secs
- Raffle prizes.



Crafty Natter

Would anyone be interested in attending a monthly Crafty Natter?

It would be held at the Weeting Village Hall once a month on a Tuesday afternoon, probably 2-4 pm.

All welcome with your favourite crafting hobby, to chat with like-minded people and to assist each other or learn new skills.

The first session is planned for the 25th March and monthly thereafter. I am happy to bring along spare wool, fabric and other craft items if you would like to have a go at something new.

Each session will cost around £2.00 a head, providing I have enough interest. I will arrange for tea, coffee and juice to be available at half time to alleviate all those dry throats after a natter!

If you are interested, could you please message me with names and telephone numbers? Text Diane, with subject "Crafty Natter" on 07498 283150. I will

Keep Fit

"Come join us, you don't need to wear Lycra!"

- ✓ Stretch
- ✓ Strengthen
- ✓ Balance
- ✓ Move
- ✓ Exercise Equipment
- ✓ Quick Quiz



Meet like minded people who want to have some fun while they exercise.

Weeting Village Hall

Monday 10am - 11am
(except bank holidays)

For more information - call Dot on 01842 810378

The equipment we use has been here for several years, it is all functional, it would be nice to add something different to our routine, if you have any unwanted gym equipment and would you like to donate, please get in touch.

WEETING VILLAGE HALL SAXON PLACE

**NEED SOMEWHERE TO HOST A PARTY?
MAYBE FOR A WEDDING, BIRTHDAY OR
ANNIVERSARY?**

**WANT TO JOIN A CLUB OR GROUP ON A
REGULAR BASIS? OR WANT TO SET UP
ONE OF YOUR OWN?**

**HERE ARE JUST SOME OF OUR REGULAR ACTIVITIES
THAT ARE GOING ON IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**KEEP FIT BINGO ART DANCE
WEETING WEENIES LINE DANCING
CARPET BOWLS DRAMA GROUP
LIGHT LUNCH CLUB**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THESE
CLUBS AND GROUPS SEE DETAILS IN THIS
MAGAZINE OR TO HIRE THE HALL, RING
ANGIE PAGE ON 01842 814147**

To book the Village Hall for meetings, parties or other social functions, contact Angie Page on 01842 814147

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School Report



Around School

Although the Spring Term is often a short term in school, it has continued to be a busy and exciting one. As the term progressed it was been fantastic to see the children using the skills and knowledge that they have been taught, and applying this to their independent learning. The confidence in which children are explaining their thinking and understanding is impressive. For many children, this point in the school year is a crucial one as connections in learning grow and fluency starts to flourish.

Children's Mental Health Week took place in February and was based on the popular film "Inside Out 2". Each class looked at ways to promote positivity, and how to support each other and advocate for ourselves when we are struggling. The children have been researching techniques for self-regulation, such as yoga and breathing exercises. We spread positivity by giving each other messages of support and praise and reflecting on what is amazing about ourselves.



To celebrate Number Day, which also took place in February, we all took part in a maths trail, which involved great focus and problem-solving skills as we counted large amounts and used our mathematical knowledge to solve some tricky outdoor problems.



Acorn Class

This term we have had a big focus on dinosaurs which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. We looked closely at a Tyrannosaurus Rex and a Stegosaurus, learning about their differences such as how they look, what they eat and where they lived. The children enjoyed exploring non-fiction books about dinosaurs and finding out more interesting facts about them. The children learnt about palaeontologists and role-played searching for fossils in our sand pit. The children also made their own fossils out of salt dough, printing a toy dinosaur into it, baking it and then painting it.

In our Design Technology learning, we made dinosaur puppets. The children learnt what a designer is, what they do and then designed their own puppets. The children worked hard creating their puppets; sewing the pieces together, we were very impressed with their perseverance and the finished products! We had a class vote on our favourite dinosaur, and the clear winner was the T-Rex!



In our Art learning we explored the work of the American artist Jackson Pollock and created our own splatter paintings. We used string dipped in paint, flicked paint off toothbrushes and paintbrushes and flicked powder paint onto wet paper. The children thoroughly enjoyed this way of painting!

In our Maths we explored patterns. We look at patterns in nature, drew our own patterns, and used puzzle boards and jigsaw puzzles to look at shapes and how they fit together. We worked on subitising, by using our "fast eyes" when looking at the amount of objects. We used numicon a lot in our learning this term, counting with them and printing them in playdough and paint. We also used a feely bag to find the matching numicon that our friends had selected for us.



Chestnut Class

In Literacy, the children have been reading "Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs". Throughout this story the children have been focusing on retelling the story using "first", "next", "after that" and "finally". We have explored how the characters would be feeling in different parts of the story and written sentences to accompany our paintings on this.



In Maths, the children have been developing their subitising and composition skills. Recently, the children have been exploring the composition of 5 and 6. The children have used numicon, double die frames and coloured counters to show these compositions.

In our Shape, Space and Measure lessons, the children have been learning about weight and capacity. The children have used balance buckets to weight different objects, identifying if they are heavy or light. We have also been comparing capacity and comparing which containers hold more or less water.



In Art this term the children have been learning about the artist Jackson Pollock. Throughout our art sessions the children have been developing their knowledge of what an artist is and what effect the artist has created. The children have explored different techniques to create the splatter effects from using paint brushed to using pegs and string! The children have used a wide range of medium, including paint and powder paints, to recreate their own final piece, inspired by Jackson Pollock's "Number 8".



In our Primary Knowledge Curriculum theme "Dinosaurs" the children have been exploring past, present and future. As a class we made a timeline to show how long-ago dinosaurs lives and compared this to the present. The children learnt that the time the dinosaurs lived was called the Jurassic Period. Next, the children explored the different types of dinosaurs that used to roam the land. We learnt about a stegosaurus and a tyrannosaurus. The children identified the different features of these dinosaurs and explained if they were an herbivore or a carnivore. Finally, the children have been exploring what paleontologists do and what they study. The children used hats, magnifying glasses and fossils to investigate and become a paleontologist!

In Design Technology the children have been completing their "Sew" unit. We started by researching and investigating how a collection of puppets moved. The children then identified the different materials and equipment that we were going to be using. As a class we discussed what the materials felt like and what we will use the equipment for. The next part of creating our stick puppets was the design element.



Chestnut Class became designers and planned what their dinosaur puppet was going to look like. They drew each part and identified which materials they were going to use. The children used their dinosaur templates to draw around to create their bodies of their dinosaurs and then used the triangles to represent the plates for their puppets. Finally, the children used their needle and thread to sew their plates onto their dinosaur's body. The children have worked very hard and shown great enthusiasm for sewing!





School Report



Beech Class

This term, Beech Class have been reading "Greek Myths" by Geraldine McCaughrean. We have been focussing on the structure of sentences, beginning with a simple sentence and then adding detail to expand it. The children have learnt that when we join sentences using conjunctions, they become clauses. We have learnt that when we join two main clauses together, these become compound sentences. They have also learnt that by joining a main clause with a subordinate clause they can create complex sentences. The children have used a range of sentences in order to describe the characters and settings in the stories of Prometheus and Pandora.



In Maths this term, we have developed our knowledge of addition and subtraction within 100, practically adding and taking away tens and ones, before moving on to do this by drawing representations of numbers, and then using the formal written method. The children first looked at calculating without crossing tens, before we looked deeper into exchanging and how we can represent this. The children have been practising to flexibly partition numbers to support their calculations, developing the understanding to count and add more tens and ones to a number.



Our focus in Geography this term was the United Kingdom. During this unit, the children were introduced to the names, locations and characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. They looked at the formation of the Union Jack and identified it as the flag of the United Kingdom. The children looked at physical and human features of the countries within the UK and used maps to identify coastlines, hills, rivers, lakes, towns and cities. They also identified seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK.



Science this term was Season and Weather. We learnt to recognise and record seasonal and daily changes in the weather using special instruments. We began to think about how seasons are naturally cyclical and how they are caused by the tilt of the Earth as it orbits the Sun. We learnt to look for signs of seasonal change. We also learnt that meteorologists are scientists who study and predict the weather. We studied weather forecasts and the symbols used to indicate different types of weather. We then practised being meteorologists and create a short weather report, finding out that weather forecasts help people to prepare for different kinds of weather. We also studied clouds and found out about three different types of cloud and the weather they bring: cirrus, cumulus and stratus.

The question examined this term in RE is "What did Jesus teach about God in his parables?" We studied three specific parables: The Lost Sheep, The Prodigal Son and The Good Samaritan, thinking about what Jesus wanted Christians to understand about the stories and what lessons they taught Christians about God. We explored how Christians can apply the lessons and values demonstrated in the parables to their own lives.

Elm Class

In both Whole Class Reading and English we delved into the exciting lives of the Ancient Greeks, initially through the short story "The Trojan Horse" by Geraldine McCaughrean, before we move on to the more in-depth story of "The Odyssey" by Gillian Cross. We have explored Odysseus' ten-year epic voyage as he returns from the Trojan War to the island of Ithaca and all manner of perils, from the man-eating Cyclops and the evil sorceress Circe, to the deadly lure of the Sirens. We have explored one of the key themes of the story: loyalty, which generated a lot of discussion and debate! In our writing we used a range of grammatical devices, including: simple, compound and complex sentences, paragraphs, expanded noun phrases, comma splices, relative pronouns, conjunctions, homophones and similes. The children then combined all of the knowledge gained from our Whole Class Reading and English sessions to produce a biography and character description based on "The Odyssey".

Maths this term has seen the children develop their awareness of patterns and connections in learning. It has been great to see how children quickly identified rules to help them when faced with multiplication and division problems and use mathematical language such as "integer" and "commutative" to describe these.

Each Maths lesson begins with the children attempting to complete 5 arithmetic questions in 5 minutes. It has been great to see how the children's pace and determination has helped them to move from answering 2 or 3, at the start of the week, to 5 by the end of the week. The children have also started to realise that problems can be solved in different ways and a favourite phrase has become "and this is the most efficient way of solving it".



Our Science theme this term was light and shadows. As part of their learning, the children planned an investigation to answer the question "Do shadows stay the same throughout the day?". As a class, they agreed on what equipment they would need, how they would measure the shadows, what time of day they would measure them and how they would record their findings. Luckily, we found a very sunny day and the children were able to carry out their investigation. As they gathered data over the day, they noticed that the size and position of their shadows changed as the sun changed position.



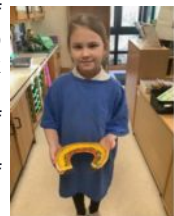
The children also went to Exploring Science in Norwich where they spent the day honing their scientific skills. First stop was an amazing light room containing a mirror maze, a laser room, a light tunnel and sloping rooms which played some tricks on our eyes! The day continued with a visit to the problem-solving space where the children had to use air to move objects, solve problems in an escape room and learn how to make giant bubble tubes. After that, there was a chance to wear a VR headset and go into some amazing fantasy worlds of roller coasters, space ships and even experience riding a motor bike and driving a car. The day ended with a chance to explore the science laboratory and try out a huge range of experiments. Several of the children commented on how amazing it would be to be a scientist when they are older. As always, the children were a real credit to their families and the school and thanked the owner of the Science Lab for creating such a fun and interesting experience for them.



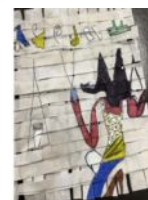
In Art, we explored the amazing world of Ancient Egyptian art, in particular the amazing world of sculpture, paintings on papyrus and walls and architecture. The children discovered that this artwork not only shows us what the ancient civilisation believed about the afterlife but also about how they lived, how they were



ruled and the power of the pharaohs. With so much incredible artwork to explore, we focused in on the Great Sphinx of Giza, the bust of Nefertiti and the representation of Egyptian gods and goddesses. The children



used their painting, designing and sculpting skills to create their own sphinx from clay, use mixed media to make Egyptian collars and draw Egyptian gods and goddesses in profile on their own homemade papyrus.





School Report



Oak Class

In English we have begun a new text for both our whole class reading and our writing sessions "Tom's Midnight Garden" by Philippa Pearce. The story is about a twelve-year-old Tom who, while staying with his aunt and uncle, slips out at midnight and discovers a magical, mysterious Victorian garden where he befriends a young girl named Hatty. In our whole class reading, we have worked on our fluency as well as continuing to develop our ability to retrieve information from a text. We have learnt how to make inferences to help us understand a character's actions and how to ask questions to improve our understanding of texts. We made predictions about what might happen from details the author had given, learning how to justify these predictions with evidence from the text. In our writing, we explored a range of grammatical devices, including: dashes, hyphens, conjunctions, complex and compound sentences, expanded noun phrases, relative clauses, paragraphing, subjunctive form and passive voice. We then applied this knowledge to both instructional writing and narrative writing linked to the text.

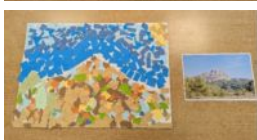
In Maths we continued to develop our understanding of place value and the four operations, as well as extending our knowledge of fractions and their decimal equivalents. We have made sure to keep up to date with our previous studies by cycling back and reviewing our work on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division while building on this prior knowledge to extend our written methods. We developed our fraction work by looking at how to multiply and divide fractions, as well as recapping the methods for addition and subtractions. We also spent some time looking at how to find fractions of amounts. We began to look at percentages, as well as spending some time on area, perimeter and volume. To tie this all together, as we worked through, we applied everything we learnt to word based problems, which will help us develop our reasoning and problem-solving.

In History, we have studied the Industrial Revolution. This unit built on from our work on the Transatlantic Slave Trade. During the 'Transatlantic Slave Trade' unit, the children learned how Britain imported and exported goods at this time. When the children learnt about the significance of cotton during the Industrial Revolution, they were able to understand that much of the cotton used in Britain had been imported from America and India, and often grown by enslaved workers. During this unit, the children looked at the similarities and differences between the impact that the Industrial Revolution had on the lives of the rich and the poor and how it was during this period that the key inventions of the industrial revolution were first created: the cotton mill, the steam engine, and the train. The children not only learnt about the economic and technological benefits of the Industrial Revolution but also explored the social context, with a focus on how life changed for those who began working in factories during this time.

In Geography, we learnt about East Anglia, Yorkshire and The Midlands. This provided us with an excellent opportunity to look at some local geography and explore how our immediate area has changed over time. We built on our understanding of UK geography and looked at how local geographical issues link to national geographical issues. Throughout this unit the children looked at how human activity can change and shape landscapes. We learnt how mining in the Midlands provided resources for industrial development and linked this to our work to our study of the Industrial Revolution in History.

In Science, we looked at the life cycles of plants and animals in our local area, working scientifically to observe the life cycle of a local tree and the animals that interact with it. Developing this knowledge, the children then looked at the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds in more detail. We studied the details of these life cycles and considered the various stages, including metamorphosis in insects and amphibians and reproduction.

In Art, we studied The Impressionists, exploring how they broke from the norm by painting outside (en plein air), using rapid brushwork and painting landscapes showing the effects of the weather. By looking at the work of Renoir we learnt how the Impressionists used developing scientific knowledge to inform the way they painted. Our final piece of work was based on the art of Cezanne – we challenged ourselves to recreate the impressionist style using the medium of collage. The final results were quite impressive!



Finally, in RE we investigated how Brahman and Atman influence the way a Hindu lives their life. We learnt that Brahman (the one Supreme Being or cosmic principle) and Atman (the true self in each human), is a bit like:

- God the fire giving out sparks
- God as sunlight glinting off waves
- God looking out through human eyes
- The ultimate connection or unity behind all things

The Nest



able to sequence the story and to start to re-tell the story in order. The children used lollipop sticks to make puppets of the main characters and used these to act out the story.

Our older children have been listening to and reading a Greek myth "Pandora's Box". The children drew pictures of the setting and wrote setting descriptions. The children drew and described some of the different characters in the story.

In Maths, our younger children have tried hard to make and count different numbers using multilink cubes and Numicon. Our older children have been learning about money. They have found out the values of different coins and notes and have worked with different combinations to make and calculate different totals.



In PSHE, the children have thought more about recognising different feelings. Our activities have included examining different pictures of different faces. We tried to guess the feeling and suggested reasons as to why the people in the pictures might be experiencing these feelings.

In Geography, we focussed our learning on The United Kingdom. We started by learning that the United Kingdom is a union of four countries. We found out that Scotland is located to the North of England, that the Scottish flag is called the St Andrew's flag and is blue with a white cross, that there are mountains and valleys in Wales, that Cardiff is the capital of Wales, that Northern Ireland is one of the countries in the United Kingdom, that the capital city of Northern Ireland is Belfast, that the capital city of England is London and that coastline is an area where the land meets the sea.

We have continued to enjoy cooking this half term. Our cooking has included making fruit yogurts, baking flapjacks and preparing healthy pastas.



WEETING LIGHT LUNCH CLUB.

Hello friends and neighbours, just to let you all know that the Weeting Village Hall is now running a new venture called The Weeting Light Lunch Club. This is open to everybody and is held once a fortnight on a Tuesday between 11am and 2pm with lunch served at 12.

We offer a choice of sandwich fillings together with a small salad and other trimmings, plus a dessert and tea or coffee and while the weather is cold, we will also have a cup of soup to start. The cost is £6 per head for lunch.



As well as having a tasty lunch, you can meet, chat and get to know other villagers in warm and pleasant surroundings. There is also a raffle and a quiz to keep you all amused.



We look forward to seeing you there BUT if you are new, please ring to book your place so that we can make sure for catering purposes. Thank you

Dates for your diary are 11th March, 25th March, 8th April, 22nd April, etc.

PHONE No: 07870 564182 or 01842 550919.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



WASPS



Since the last Weeting Village Life magazine, we have had Christmas and New Year celebrations, wrapped ourselves up against the cold at the start of 2025, seen the Valentine Day cards in February and here we are in March!

So, what have the Weeting All Star Performers been up to? During the first week of December, we had



our annual Christmas show called "**SANTA SCROOGE**". Great fun was had by both the cast and the audience as Santa got very Scrooge-like after bumping his head and said Christmas was cancelled! Oh dear! Now what are all the Elves and Fairies etc. going to do? After a lot of worry and trying to get all the toys out to the children, Santa bumped



his head again and the Wicked Witches were taken away, so all was ok. But no - the Wicked Witches had sent Rudolf away! Santa could not use his sledge without Rudolf's magic nose and he was found having a good time in Florida! However, at last Santa rode away to deliver all the toys to all the children in the world - well, it is only make believe!

After a well-deserved rest, the cast of WASPs are now rehearsing for our next two productions. The first will be on **Saturday May 3rd** and will be our **Second World War Concert, this time to celebrate VE Day**. The Happy To Sing Choir from Brandon will join us again for the concert like they did last year, so come and join us. We shall be doing all the old 40's songs, some new and some old favourite ones.

Our Summer show will be held on **Friday June 27th and Saturday June 28th**. This year it is called "**THE KING'S GARDEN PARTY**" and is a show with a difference as it is two shows in one. I hope you like it. There is always room if you would like to join the WASPs and, in September, we will be looking for children to join us for the **Christmas Pantomime**, held early in December for ages from 7 years to big kids of up to 80!

What else have the WASPS been up to? Well, in February we held our spring **QUIZ** night and, again, good fun was had by all. **April 12th** is the date for the first **Craft Fayre** of the season. All the tables are taken already, but in case we get a cancellation, and you would like to come, please ring phone Carole.

Carole Wilkins - 01842 550919



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Art For Pleasure

Although we meet each week to draw or paint we are a very sociable group, so, come Christmas, we usually leave our brushes and canvases and treat ourselves to a Christmas Lunch locally. For the second year running we enjoyed a thoroughly good lunch, with crackers, silly hats, etc., at Thetford Golf Club which got the Christmas season off to a great start. To personalise Christmas, December's programme is to produce a Christmas card which is then given a raffle ticket. We all then draw a ticket and go home with a very special Christmas card.



We are now back to painting and sketching various subjects in various mediums (water colour, acrylics, pastels). We all work individually but help each other out if we get stuck. We do have a programme, but only as a suggestion. At the moment it is mainly winter subjects but soon spring flowers will be on the programme or brought in from someone's garden and we will attempt to copy from life such as in the winter berries pictured above.

If you have always wanted to try your hand at drawing or painting, we meet every Thursday morning at Weeting Village Hall, 9.30am – 12.30 p.m.. New members are always welcome. Our name, Art for Pleasure, means exactly that – we meet for the pleasure of painting and the company of like-minded friends.

Beryl Pountney, – Tel. no. 01842 828750

BRECKLAND CATS PROTECTION

We are often faced with a dilemma when taking in an unknown female cat. Is she neutered? Unlike male cats, there is no outward sign that a female cat is neutered. Unless she has a large tummy, early pregnancy is not detectable. We have to make a decision to either ask the vet to shave the fur off one side of her body (females are always neutered on the left-hand flank) and look for a scar which is not always visible. The scar would only be around 2-3 millimeters long and as they are very good at healing, cannot always be seen. Or ask the vet to perform an exploratory laparotomy to look for a uterus. This means spending around one hundred pounds, as it would be the same for a spay. The other alternative is to wait and see if she comes into season.



Fortunately, there is now a new blood test to determine neuter status in females based on detection of luteinising hormone. LH, as it is known is a hormone released from the pituitary gland in the brain which plays a role in reproduction. In female cats, mating stimulates the release of LH into the bloodstream, leading to ovulation. In unneutered female cats, LH is normally maintained at low serum levels through negative feedback from the ovaries, unless coitus or spontaneous ovulation has just occurred in which case LH will rise but return to basal levels within 24 hours. Removal of the ovaries through neutering removes the negative feedback and subsequently the serum levels of LH in neutered females are higher. Levels above 1ng/ml of LH in serum is detected as a positive result and indicates that the individual has likely been neutered.

The test itself is a bit like a pregnancy test. Several drops of serum are added to the well on the test kit and the test is ready around 20 minutes later. A single pink line on the test indicates a negative result. She is not neutered. Two pink lines indicates a positive result. She has been neutered.

This is a great innovation and saves us time and money and gives us the result we need in a short time.

For help or advice, or if you need help with the cost of neutering, please call us on 01842 810018.

Rita Thompson.



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Update from the Rector, Churchwardens and St Mary's PCC on the current state of affairs with the Church Building

Given the recent speculation on social media which touches on past, present and future works at St Mary's, The Rector, Churchwardens and PCC feel that it is time to update the Weeting village community with an accurate account of where we're at with the repair of the building and with its interior reordering.

Background

As you are all aware, the nave – or main part – of the church was closed in August 2022 following a visit from Mt Geoffrey Hunter, head of buildings in Ely Diocese and the Archdeacon. This was due to their determination upon visual examination that the plaster on the ceiling of the nave was unstable and liable to fall, potentially causing injury to anyone standing or sitting below. Clearly this was a serious health and safety concern with which the PCC had no option but to comply. As the ceiling was stable in the chancel – the area behind the pulpit, Sunday services were able to continue in that space.

Following further consultation with Mr Hunter and the Diocesan Historic Buildings Support Officer Mrs Holly Robinson, the PCC approached Historic England for advice regarding repairs given that the church is on the Heritage at Risk register. This resulted with a visit from their architect Sarah Morrison who advised that a series of surveys be undertaken of the ceiling plaster, the state of the floor – you will remember that the south aisle had been roped off for some time prior due to subsidence of the pew platform - and the drainage system in order that the damp issue especially in the North Aisle be investigated. She advised that Historic England would most likely be willing to offer a partial grant towards the cost of the works and advised the PCC to apply.

Holly Robinson and the Rector prepared this grant application in October of that year and this was approved by Historic England. The Diocesan Architect assigned to St Mary's, Mrs Ruth Blackman then set about obtaining tenders for the work. Three tenders were obtained and Mrs Blackman advised that the PCC accept that of S & L Restoration, a firm well experienced in the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings. The PCC accepted the tender. The Rector then applied to the Diocese for the appropriate permissions for the work to be undertaken from the Chancellor of the Diocese – this is called a Faculty. This permission was granted and the work was due to commence in August 2023. The Rector also applied to the National Churches Trust for a small supplementary grant which was awarded.

In order firstly that cherry picker type equipment could be used in the nave so that the restoration expert Dr David Carrington could determine the extent of the ceiling plaster degradation and secondly for the underfloor area to be examined, the Victorian pews in the nave needed to be removed. Thanks to Tom and David Childerhouse who provided storage on the farm and a team of volunteers, the pews were removed in late July 2023.

Unfortunately, the contractors were delayed with another major restoration project and they were unable to complete the work here at St Mary's until January 2024.

Findings

The Nave Ceiling

Dr Carrington found that the ceiling plaster had failed in two ways. The plaster had separated at the interface of the lath and secondly there was detachment of the lath from the battens where nails had corroded.



S & L contractors placed close fitting temporary netting over the whole of the nave ceiling to catch any future plaster falls prior to the restoration of the ceiling.

The Floor

Emergency work was undertaken with decayed wood and joists being replaced and remaining joists were strengthened before the floor boards were replaced and ventilation holes drilled. A temporary wooden platform has been laid in the north and south sides of the nave. **The plus side of this is that the entire nave of the church, rather than simply the north side is now safe to use.**



Drains

These are in poor condition and their repair is first on the PCC's priority list of 2025 repairs.

Pews

The pews are **late Victorian** contrary to the recent misleading speculation on social media that they are decorative and medieval. The Diocesan Advisory Committee deems them of **no historic value that would warrant their retention**. The pews are now stored in the North Aisle of the Church pending a decision as to their future by the DAC and the PCC. It would not be feasible for the pews to be returned to the nave prior to the restoration work on the nave ceiling being completed. That work will not be happening imminently as the cost is huge and the DAC has advised the PCC that significant funding will be required to complete **all the permanent interior work** at the same time.

The cost will be a significant 6 figure sum. The current temporary repairs have enabled the church to function until such time as it is possible to begin this phase of the work.

Current position

The nave of the church is now safe and functional. The temporary floor has enabled the space within the nave to be used in a more flexible manner which suits the needs of contemporary community use and worship. Our C of E school in particular has benefitted from the opening out of the nave space. For the first time in the last 16 years the entire school, staff, parents, grandparents and friends have been able to fit comfortably into the building for school services. So far, the church has been full for school Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christingle services and it's been a joy to welcome the school community in its entirety into the church.



The more flexible layout has enabled more informal services involving children and families using PowerPoint technology to run last year at Pentecost and at the feast of All Saints.

The PCC stresses that the current seating arrangement of some 60 second hand chairs is a **temporary seating measure**. The DAC will require high quality stackable wooden chairs similar to those in Ely cathedral and many other reordered medieval churches across the country. Such seating allows for flexibility that is not possible with static pews.

It's important for the community to understand that if the pews had historic significance – if they were medieval, Jacobean, box pews or even intricately carved Victorian pews the PCC would not get DAC permission to remove them. However, several pews have been placed against the South Aisle wall to provide additional seating and to retain the historic connection. One may be relocated to the school for placement in the school vestibule as a visible sign of the connection between the school and parish church.

Moving forward

The Rector, Churchwardens and PCC met with the Archdeacon and members of the DAC in December to consider a plan for restoration and upgrading of St Mary's into the future.

The DAC report to the PCC is summarised below:

Proposal

- Sell 18 Victorian pews removed from the nave and replace with suitable new wooden stackable seating.
- Level the floor around the pew platforms with a suspended timber floor.
- Complete all conservation work on the nave ceiling.
- Install a WC and servery into the church
- Undertake drainage work as recommended in 2024 QI report
- Make improvements to the lighting, heating and AV systems
- Create a local history display in the north aisle incorporating the medieval bench ends that were retained on the older pews kept in the Lady Chapel.

It is proposed that all this work – minus the drainage work – should be undertaken at the same time. The project if supported by a large two stage Lottery grant supplemented by other smaller grants and fundraising will take a good three years to complete.

Meanwhile the PCC will arrange for tenders and will apply for grant funding to enable the urgent repair of the drainage system in 2025. The PCC will meet with the Church Architect prior to the Rector's retirement to advise on phasing the work. The fact that the Benefice will be in vacancy from 20th April until a new Rector is appointed and is to merge with the neighbouring Wissey Valley group of 8 parishes to form a new group of 12 rural parishes will impact the timescale of this work.

From the Rector's point of view, this PCC has done excellent work in taking this project forward to date and articulating a coherent vision for St Mary's into the future and this should be commended.

This report has been compiled by the Rector and has been approved for publication by the Churchwardens and PCC of St Mary's Weeting. February 2025.

Rector's Report

As the days lengthen despite the chill winds and early frosts we're getting a whiff of Spring, seeing signs of new life springing up in the clumps of snow drops starting to appear in woodlands and churchyards. It's a wonderful reminder of the cycle of life, that out of the 'death' of winter comes new life and fresh promise. This is what we celebrate at Easter when death is transformed into life through the resurrection of Jesus.

All good things eventually come to an end and a new cycle begins. This will be my last column as Rector of St Mary's Weeting. After almost 16 years, retirement at Easter beckons. I have so much to be thankful for and so many positive memories to cherish of these past years as Rector of St Mary's and of the wider Grimshoe Benefice. It's been a tough few years for St Mary's with so many huge building issues and financial constraints. In this of course we have much in common with many struggling village churches both here in Norfolk and countrywide. It's been heartening however to have experienced the positive support of so many of you – not just regular churchgoers but from the wider community – because the place of the church especially in life's important milestones – birth, marriage and death, the major festivals – Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance is significant in the life of the village. This has been made abundantly clear to me over the past 16 years in many ways.

Who could forget that amazing Elvis Tribute evening organised so wonderfully by Lisa Marie, Max and friends? From Dave our excellent Elvis, to the food van, the support of the Saxon and many others – that was a real community effort which I shall always remember and cherish. Another highlight was the visit of author Elly Griffiths to St Mary's on 1st February 2023. St Mary's is featured on the cover of her final Ruth Galloway novel, *The Last Remains* and Elly graciously accepted our invitation to a book launch and signing at St Mary's. I can only thank you all for your support for our fundraisers especially in recent years: the tea dance, the band, the Quiz nights, the Harvest barn dance to name but a few. I pray that this support may continue into the future as the PCC work so hard to ensure that the church is retained for future generations. The next few months and maybe longer will be challenging for St Mary's as it will be for the other 11 village churches that are to be cobbled together under a single Rector as a cost cutting exercise by "Church Central". It's an appalling situation – an urban managerial elite in the C of E that has no time for small parishes and village communities. I can only hope and pray for Divine guidance that a suitable priest may be found to take on the challenge of loving and caring for the people of these villages into the future. In the meantime, the Churchwardens and PCC will do their absolute best to keep the church functioning and alive in Weeting with the help of associate priest Rev'd Juanita Hawthorne. Hers will be a challenging task – the more so in that she receives no stipend – that means no salary – from the Diocese for her hard work as associate priest in the Benefice! Please support any future fundraisers that the PCC will put on. They need every penny to keep the church going.

It has been my great joy to work closely with Weeting school over the past years and to see the recent progress under the leadership of Dr Jacqui Hardie. The links between school and parish church have grown ever closer and it has been a delight for myself and the PCC to welcome children, staff, parents, grandparents and others from the village community to the church for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christingle in 2024 after many years when this was not possible. I'm looking forward to our usual Ash Wednesday and Easter services before I leave. The Year 6 Walsingham pilgrimages with the Norman and Duchy schools have been a highlight and I hope these can continue into the future.

My thanks and prayers are also with Mike and Sue Nairn for their support and common sense advice over the years, to Ian Smith for his support and advice with the porch refurbishment grants and to Lisa and friends for organising Elvis and the lovely Tea Dance afternoon, to all who have volunteered time to help with church spring cleans and churchyard clean ups and for all who have supported St Mary's fundraising to keep our church alive and to help with its repairs over the years. There is much still to do but with your continued support I believe it will happen.

Thank you all so much and my thoughts, prayers and blessings are with you into the future.

Rev'd Canon Joan Horan
Rector



St Mary's Church



Rector:

Joan Horan

Tel: 01842 828034. revjhoran@gmail.com

Curate:

Juanita Hawthorne

Tel: 01366 728545. revjuanita58@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Tommy Saward

Tel: 01842 813601 tommysaward@hotmail.com

Julianne Young

julianneyoung0@gmail.com

Regular services are as follows:

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month:

Eucharist @ 11am

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Fri & Sat: 12.00- 9.30pm • Sunday Closed

WEETING SPEED RECORDER UPDATE

Time Period FROM	Time Period TO	Position (Direction facing)	Total Count of vehicles	Speed Limit mph	Vehicles within the speed limit	Speeding Violations
2024	2025					
16 th November	14 th December	South Park (S)	117605	30	106013	11592
14 th December	11 th January	Park View (E)	30421	30	26137	4284
11 th January	8 th February	Lynn Road (S)	64174	40	59579	4595

Quarterly Summary

Total Vehicle Count for the recorded period	212200
Vehicle Count within the speed limit	191729
Speeding Violations within the village	20471
Violators as a percentage of the total vehicle count	9.6%
At 19:06 on 16/11/24 this speed was recorded at South Park (S)	60
At 08:05 on 15/12/24 this speed was recorded at Park View (E)	45
At 23:20 on 30/01/25 this speed was recorded at Lynn Road (S)	70



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Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9-2

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?? Who's Who ??

Weeting Parish Councillors

Cllr Ian Childerhouse 07747 794867
Cllr Tom Childerhouse (V Chair) 01842 811469
Cllr Margaret Lister 01842 810467
Cllr Mike Nairn (Chair) 01842 810212
Cllr Sue Nairn 01842 810212
Cllr Peter Nordan 01842 815638
Cllr Rowena Read 07985 702940
Cllr Bernard Smith 07985 902188
Cllr Carole Wilkins 01842 550919

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sue.nairn@btinternet.com
nordanp@hotmail.co.uk
rowena71uk@gmail.com
bernardsmith7@btinternet.com
carolewilkins@sky.com

Weeting Parish Clerk

Mrs Pauline Angus 07741 481956

clerk@weetingparishcouncil.org.uk

Breckland District Councillor

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen 07771 966457
Cllr Robert Kybird 01842 753132

sam.chapman-allen@breckland.gov.uk
robert.kybird@breckland.gov.uk

Norfolk County Councillor

Cllr Fabian Eagle 07774 295510

fabian.eagle@norfolk.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Mr Terry Jermy
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

terry.jermy.mp@parliament.uk
Facebook: Terry Jermy for South West Norfolk
Twitter: @cllrterryjermy
Office: 020 7219 8254

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

CLUB	CONTACT	LOCATION	DAY AND TIME
Adult's & Children's Street Dancing	Micha 07841 474400	Village Hall	Wednesday 3:45 - 8:45
Art For Pleasure	Beryl Pountney 01842 828750	Village Hall	Thursday 10:30am – 12:30pm Thursday 10:30 - 3:30pm 3rd
Bingo	Angie Page 01842 814147	Village Hall	Tuesday Open at 6:30pm Eyes down at 7pm - 9pm
Brandon & District Classic Vehicle Club	John Maxim 07876 656070	The Ram, Brandon	2nd Monday 7.30pm
Brandon & District Camera Club	Denise Whiting 01842 862079	Baptist Church Brandon	2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30pm
Brandon & District Society of Model Engineering	Dave Moore 01842 811996	Brandon Council Offices	1st Wednesday 7:30pm
Brandon Day Centre	Michelle Jarrett 01842 819777	Warren Close, Brandon, IP27 0EE	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10am - 3.30pm
Brandon Speaker's Club	Gary Sander 01842 814679	The Ram, Brandon	2nd & 4th Wednesday 7:00-9:30pm
Carpet Bowls	Heather Woodhams 01842 815406	Village Hall	Friday 10 – 12 midday
Friends of Brandon Station	John Maxim 07876 656070		
Green Bowls	Jo Nordan 01842 815638 Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Tuesday 7pm-10pm, Friday 5pm–10pm Saturday 8pm-Late, Sunday 12pm-12am
Gun Club	Derick Spencer 07766 750153	Weeting Gun Club	Alternate Sunday January to October
HATS	Gary Sander 07754 727130	Hockwold Village Hall	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 - 9:30pm (during rehearsal periods)
History Group	Julianne Young 01842 813581	Various - call to check location	Last Thursday 7:30pm
Hockwold Cricket Club	John Ruddick 07902 231235		
Outdoor Archery	Mike 07894 904090	Euston Park	Friday 6:00 – 10pm Sunday 12 midday – 4:00pm
Keep Fit	Dorothy Kent 01842 810378	Village Hall	Monday 10:00– 11am (except Bank Holidays)
Light Lunch Club	Carole Wilkins 07870 564182	Village Hall	Alternate Tuesdays 11am - 2pm
Line Dance	Rita Thompson 01842 815550	Village Hall	Friday 2:00 - 4:pm
Methwold Badminton Club	Jeff Millard 01842 827428	St George's Hall, Methwold	Every Thursday between September & April 7.00pm
Methwold Theatre Club	01366 727526	The 21 Room St George's Complex Methwold	Tuesday 7:30pm
Model Car	Colin. 07876 330687	Village Hall	Alt. Wednesday 7pm - 9pm
Pool	Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Tuesday 7:00pm
St Mary's Church	Tommy Saward (Churchwarden) 01842 813601	St Mary's Church	See list of Service times
Shoestring Theatre Company	Jill Hopper, 07985 376465	IES Breckland School Crown Street, Brandon	Tuesday 7:00 - 10:00pm
Thetford Singers	Sue Nairn 01842 810212	Methodist Rooms Tanner Street Thetford	Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm
W.A.S.P.s	Carole Wilkins 01842 550919	Village Hall	Monday and Friday 6:00 - 8pm (during rehearsal periods)
Weeting Saxon FC	James Langley. 01842 811627		
Weeting Steam Rally	Kate Plant Rally Co-ordinator 07907 720312		Monday 7pm to 9pm Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm
Weeting Weenies	Marie Stebbins mariestebbins@hotmail.com	Village Hall	Wednesday 10:00 – 12 midday (school term time only)
West Norfolk Aviation Society	07706 030307	Mundford Bowls Club	1st Tuesday

OLD WEETING PARISH COUNCIL RECORDS (continued)

Now we are about to have a slight hiatus in the minutes so to speak. There are those for the meeting of the 24th June 1957 in which the first of rights of way are mentioned. The Swaffham RDC had an objection to rights of way in Weeting Park as did Mr Parrott on his land. On the bright side, the Nissan huts were being demolished, the sewage system had been completed and was working well. Also, the thatch to The Row had been overhauled. *Whilst I appreciate the effect of inflation it was agreed that the bus shelter was very dirty and the council were asked "if it would agree to pay a woman to clean it". This was agreed but "the cost not to exceed 5/-" (25p). It was however agreed to defer installation of a light in Hockwold Road as Eastern Electricity had quoted a £24 installation fee with annual maintenance of £4.15.10p. A special meeting was to discuss the rights of way objections. This was held on the 19th July 1957 – rights of way from Lynn Lodge to Home Farm and Belvedere Wood to Wilton Bottom should be deleted from the map as a Right of Way and Fengate Drove to New Bridge was not actioned pending further investigation. The new bungalow tenants Messrs Cator, Newell, Burlingham and Malster were confirmed.*

And then – well we leap to 8th April 1968 (not quite sure where the intervening book(s) are kept). By 8th April 1968, the first minutes are rather discrete about mentioning who was on the Committee but incredibly Mr Knight is still Chair. Eleven years later, lighting was still being discussed. However, the streets are new ... but conclusions the same. Lighting in Pilgrims Way would be shelved due to the cost. Interestingly Mr Parrott suggested the white lights along the main road be changed to coloured to avoid confusion for motorists. (Some 55 years later, they went back to white!) Now the Parish Council are spending – it was agreed that 5.2 acres of land for a playing field be purchased for £675 with plans being discussed for a Village Hall. However, plans for bungalows near the Thatched Row would be postponed until 1969 due to the economic crisis. (In 1968 there was a sterling crisis with the London Gold Pool collapse and – the devaluation of the pound in 1967, reshuffle of the cabinet and pressure on the \$ - where have we heard that before!)

Possible weekly collection of rubbish and extension to the sewage works have been deferred due to the crisis. Mr Menell agreed to make a new notice board. May 1968 and Mr J Knight is re-elected as Chair. *(Mr Knight was Chair in December 1948 and Messrs N Parrott and N Burlingham and W Holledge were members of the Parish Council back in 1957). Mrs Rosemarie Jacob is now the Clerk (a lady I remember). Plans for the Village Hall were proceeding with Rudling and Co being appointed Solicitors to work on behalf of the PC and a deposit of £67.10.0d being paid and the Village Notice Board location was discussed.*

The next meeting is not until the 3rd September 1968 and again the street lighting in the village was a topic – lighting opposite the new butcher's shop (?) being approved and Mr Holledge being proposed as the "lighting officer" to whom complaints should be made! £310 was agreed for levelling the playing field but Mr Knight drew councillors' attention to the fact that with the Council only having £116 in the bank they were in danger in needing overdraft facilities. It was agreed to request the Village Hall Committee for a loan of £500 subject to interest rate. *(It would be interesting to learn where the Village Hall had got this money from!)* It was also agreed that if Swaffham RDC would not provide toilets on the site, then the Parish Council would, and such facilities would be open at all times to the public.

We are in late November 1968. Four bungalows were now planned to be built near the Church ruins in All Saints and it was confirmed that the Ministry of Housing would pay 50% of the cost of the playing field and that NCC were considering paying 30% of the cost of any work carried out on the land. £850 had been quoted for this work but the Village Hall Committee had confirmed that they would loan the PC £500 subject to 6% interest. However, it was hoped to complete the project without the loan *(I am not surprised at 6% interest!)*.

The plan for bungalows by the Thatched Row was dropped in favour of an open space and to possibly use spare land between the Row and Swedish Houses. *(Rings a bell)* It was noted because of drastic cuts, the County Council would only be gritting A roads during the coming winter and Mr Parrott offered to sand the corners and bends if conditions became very bad. There was a complaint that furniture lorries parked in The Chase were obscuring the light, but it was understood there was no alternative – it was agreed to talk to the local policeman to see whether this was an offence! A second complaint was made by Councillor Drewry of the inelegance of the butcher's shop but as planning permission had been received there was nothing that could be done.

By February 1969 some progress, the light near the butcher's has been erected, the entire lighting system in the village was scheduled to be inspected by EE Board and the matter of the parked lorries in the Chase was being reviewed by Swaffham RDC, the County Council and the Police *(whew!)* The Playing Field project was now well underway with the Ministry of Housing

accepting an application for a grant, a specification for the clearance received which would be put out for tender.

The bungalows – well tenders had been sought for one bedroomed bungalows, but the Swaffham RDC would only accept two bedroomed bungalows, so back to square one. The financial crisis was still very much alive with Mr Knight reporting interest rates were going up to 8.25% which it was hoped would be stable for the next ten years. It was also announced that Water Boards were to be formed and there were a number of complaints received by Councillors ranging from dangerous trenches to the burnt-out property in Cromwell Road. *(I remember at least one bungalow on the corner of Cromwell Road and Cromwell Close being completely gutted by fire, possibly two).*

Ann E Morgan

The Birdman of Weeting by John Holledge

HANG GLIDING

A few years ago, I wanted to have a go at hang gliding. I told my wife about it and she said she knew that one of her workmates went gliding and she would ask him about it.

A few days later, he said that he was going gliding on the Sunday and would I like to go with him to watch and see what happens. I agreed and so on the Sunday he picked me up and we went to a hill top the other side of Diss. John M showed me how to assemble the glider and harness and attach the latter to the frame. He also showed me how to read the wind speed on the Ventometer, but there wasn't much wind and it took a while for the meter to show enough wind to fly. However, at last the wind blew harder and John ran down the hill, taking off on a short flight that lasted about 5 minutes. He landed at the bottom of the field where he had to be careful as there were cows in it who came over to see what was happening. John then asked me if I would like to have a go and I said I would. We picked up the kite, carried it to the top of the hill and set it up for another take off. I put on the harness, clipped it to the frame, stood up, took the tiller and waited for the wind. John said to go down the hill, but there was still not sufficient wind – or so I thought until I trod in a cow pat, slipped forward pushing on the tiller bar which tilted the front of the kite up and up I went! It's quite an experience to be suddenly pulled up into the sky, (not really!). I did fly for about 3 minutes, meanwhile losing speed and height, until I crash landed into a patch of stinging nettles by a little brook. I hurt my leg, was stung by the nettles and my trousers were covered in cow dung!

The experience put me off further attempts, but never mind, I lived to tell the tale. However, **never** again!



FLIGHT IN A HOT AIR BALLOON

My son, Nicholas, used to go balloon chasing, that is to say it was his job to follow the balloon in a Land Rover to where it eventually landed, then dismantle it, load it up and bring it home together with passengers and pilot. On one occasion he asked me if I wanted to go with him to help, so I said yes. Off we went to Methwold where we assembled the balloon. I assisted with the gas burners and got the inflation motor started to blow the hot air into the balloon in order to get it up and running. The pilot lit the burners and soon the balloon was standing upright. However, one of the four passengers was unwell and couldn't make the flight, so I was asked if I would like to take his place. I climbed into the basket and the pilot opened up the burners. The roar was deafening and the heat so intense that it scorched my bald head until the pilot found me a hard hat to wear! After a while we reached a height of 200 metres and the burners fell silent. It is then you realise the magic of ballooning! The silence and the view across the Fens towards Ely was breath taking as the cathedral was silhouetted in the evening sun. People call the cathedral the "Ship of the Fens" and it does look like one from certain angles. During the flight people on the ground would point up at us and, amusingly, you could hear clearly what they were saying. We landed in a field at Queen Adelaide, but the basket was pulled over onto its side and I fell on top of a lovely lady passenger! Fortunately, she didn't mind and said it was quite an experience!

I shall never forget that trip over the Fens – it was fantastic and I would recommend it to everyone.





Spring Gardening



Hopefully your winter planning has set you in good stead for this exciting and busy time of year. Through the winter I spend time browsing our growers' catalogues and ordering key lines to arrive to store throughout the year. However, we operate a 'just in time' policy and most of our plants are ordered on a weekly basis from our smaller family run nurseries, and in busy periods twice a week from our larger commercial suppliers. Which means we always strive to have the freshest plant stock (UK grown) whenever you visit our store. The weather of course is the biggest dictator of what plants will arrive to store and when. So far hardy plants are coming on really quickly and we expect that our first batch of cottage garden favourite perennials will be ready for sale in early February.

Here's my key jobs to do in your garden over the coming months

March:

- Plant early potatoes outside
- Top dress containers with slow-release fertiliser and fresh compost.
- Keep an eye out for aphids and other garden pests and deal with accordingly.
- Plant up spring flowering bulbs such as Dahlia, Begonias and Cannas.
- Protect newly emerging shoots from slugs and snails.
- Sprinkle a general-purpose fertiliser in borders around shrubs and perennials.
- Use a mower set on a high blade setting to give the lawn a trim, later in the month (as daylight increases) sow grass seed in any bare patches of the lawn.
- Primroses, Polyanthus, Dianthus, and Pansies will all provide fantastic colour from now until May (when they can be replaced with summer annuals).

April:

- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts using horticultural fleece.
- Sow seeds of hardy annuals, herbs and wildflowers directly where they are to flower.
- Keep a ball of twine handy and tie in new growth of climbers particularly Clematis and Honeysuckle which grow rapidly.
- Keep tender bedding plants frost free.
- Prune Hydrangeas.
- Sow sweet peas and other hardy annuals.
- Sow under glass tender annuals and vegetables.
- Make a note of any gaps in your spring planting to order any bulbs in the autumn for next year.
- Leave your spring bulbs to die down naturally, don't be tempted to cut back or tie up foliage. Lift & divide any congested clumps which didn't flower.

May:

- Watch out for late frosts!
- Earth up potatoes and promptly plant any remaining.
- When planting up hanging baskets use a good quality compost, an add some slow-release fertiliser and water retaining crystals.
- Trim back spreading plants such as aubrieta, alyssum and candytuft after they have flowered to encourage fresh new growth and more flowers.
- Start to closely inspect your plants for pests and diseases - early prevention is easier than curing an infestation.
- Harden off and plant out young vegetable and bedding plants.

This year is our 23rd year trading, I can't quite fathom where that time has gone! Thank you all for your incredible support over the years, we really appreciate it and look forward to helping you grow your best garden this year.

Rachel Sobiechowski BSc(Hons)

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WEETING VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Happy New Year to everyone, I do hope you all had a lovely Christmas, Mine was a relatively quiet one after going in to hospital for a total knee replacement the week before Christmas, I was able to come home on Christmas Eve, phew, it is nice to be getting around without as much pain as I had beforehand

The Hall was in full use up to till Christmas and again from mid-January and two new groups in the hall, one on Monday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.30 which is a Food Bank, open to all and the newly formed Weeting Light Lunch Club. This is going to run every two weeks, and by the time this report comes out we will have had one on the 11th February and another on 25th February, so don't forget to look out for updated posters in and around the area, and on Facebook – we have two pages available to us – Weeting Village News and Weeting Village Hall, so please do look out for these if you are able to go online

With that in mind, don't forget if you have need of a hall for a party or big family get together, the hall has a lot to offer from a large space for tables and chairs to be put out – we have approximately 30 x 6ft tables and 130 chairs, a 100-piece crockery set, a fully fitted kitchen. We have a lot to offer in the space we have, which includes a stage, and on the outside of the hall itself is the playing field which has a fenced off play area for the younger children. Please ring Angie Page (01842 814147) who will be only too happy to take the bookings. As indeed if you have something that you want to do on a regular basis, again speak to Angie and she can fit you in on her diary – Tuesdays once a fortnight are free during the day, then there are Thursday afternoons and, of course, Saturdays and Sundays.

I would also like to bring to everyone's attention that the Village Hall Committee are due to be up for re-election in May at the AGM. Anyone wanting to join the committee, please come along, the date for the meeting is Friday 12th May, starting at 7pm, usually followed by a short session afterwards to welcome new members and arrange the next meeting.

As always, we are looking for new people to join us, that are able bodied, with great ideas for events etc. and able to carry out jobs within the hall – like repairing the door handle in the Kitchen, which our secretary, Carole Wilkins, has done (again!!!) How this was broken and by whom, we have NO IDEA because as usual it was broken and left to us to find it, NO apology for breaking it, or an explanation as to how it was done, and believe me, to break this door handle where it is and where the break was, must have taken some doing – these door handles are METAL. If more damage is done, we will have no option but to put the hire fees up – we are the cheapest hall around, so come on, help us to keep it going and look after it.

BUT, we are looking forward to the coming months, - as usual there will be craft fayres, quizzes, drama shows etc going on (see separate reports regarding these – and look out for posters etc). Other ongoing refurbishments are in the planning stages at present – one of which is the heating, again we have had problems with the gas heaters, but Sue Jones, our Vice-Chairperson is looking into this. So if you have any other ideas or questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the existing committee members.

So take care in the meantime, keep safe and well and hope to see you all at one of our events soon

Karen Scott
Treasurer
Weeting Village Hall



MOBILE LIBRARY

20th March 2025
17th April 2025
15th May 2025

Angerstein Close	10.25 - 10.40 am
St Edmund Close	10.45 - 11.00 am
Saxon Place	11.05 - 11.15 am
Glebe Road	11.20 - 11.45 am
Rectory Lane	11.50 - 12.10 pm

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT



One Git's Guide to Gliding



Our own member David Allen was the speaker this month with a catchy entitled talk, consisting of his reminiscences of the purest form of flying: gliding.

David was born into an aviation family and spent much of his youth involved with, and later working on, aircraft and airlines way back when Pontius was a Pilate and not a pilot. Nonetheless, after he had settled into something more respectable he still had that urge to fly. His first move was the micro light; a very small two-seater with an engine. Eventually, after going solo he realised that the only way to continue, without licensing restrictions, was instead, to join a shared ownership group involving considerably lower costs. Then, after another change of heart, he changed direction again and joined the Fenland Gliding Club at RAF Marham.

There are generally 2 ways of launching a glider from a standard flat aerodrome. The first and most common is by winch. This is connected by a very long wire to the glider. At the launch end the winch driver accelerates the glider to around 1200 ft. in a very short time. This is high enough to provide 5-7 minutes of flight training or, if you're lucky and find a thermal, the sky is the limit.

The second method is by aero-tow: the glider is towed behind a light aircraft. This is more expensive but you can reach around 3000ft. This gives a much longer flight and a better chance of finding a thermal.

There were a few mishaps. On one occasion he breached security by dismantling a boundary fence which had to be rebuilt after retrieving the glider. The instructor admitted liability. This brought down the wrath of the Station Commander and led to a full security briefing for all personnel.

David also had a gliding detachment to Sutton Bank near Thirsk in Yorkshire where the airfield is on a plateau about 1000 ft above the surrounding countryside. This provides very nicely for scenic flying and, hill soaring a distinct possibility. He was most impressed at the slick operation at Sutton Bank and also, that the club house has a panoramic view of the whole airfield.

Unfortunately Fenland Gliding Club came to an end when RAF Marham began to modernise in anticipation of the arrival of the F35 Lightning 2.

Finally if you like the sound of our group then why not come to the West Norfolk Aviation Society meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at Mundford Bowls Club between 1900-2130 where you will be guaranteed a warm welcomed with free tea, coffee and buffet. Be sure to check the website (Google 'West Norfolk Aviation Society') to see what exciting topics await and, to ensure we will actually be there and not on an away day.

Mark Burch, Stand In Scribe 11th February 2025

Editor's note:

A list of the clubs and organisations in the village can be found in the centre pages of Weeting Village Life along with details of who to contact if you would like to make enquiries. Most of the clubs have room for more of you to come along, so have a look and see if anything takes your fancy!

Editor's Note:

The next edition of Weeting Village Life will be published in June 2025.

If anyone would like to submit an advertisement, article, photo, etc for consideration to be included, the deadline for receipt by the Editor will be **Friday 16th May 2025**.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Weeting Bowls Club

Your Weeting Bowls Club Committee prides itself on the provision of excellent sporting and social activities for the benefit of the village. We are constantly working hard to raise money to improve our facilities. In our 50 anniversary year, we were delighted with the installation of a new kitchen, and some restoration work on the green. However, the bowling green and equipment does need continual, and costly maintenance all year round.

We need your help! There are two ways you can help us.

The first is through Easy Fundraising. – What is Easy fundraising?

Free donations can be raised for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands like Tesco, Argos, Amazon, ebay, Sainsbury, to name but a few. They will donate to us when you or a family member use Easy Fundraising to shop with them at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a big difference to us, so we would really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us.

How to support Weeting Bowls Club on the Easy Fundraising App

- Add this link to your search engine and click on it https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/weeting-bowls-club?utm_term=A2302

- Get the App
- Choose a cause
- Type in Weeting Bowls Club
- Sign up to support the cause

The second way you can help to support your bowls club is through membership and/or by attending one of the many sporting and social events, throughout the year.

Upcoming Events

Sat 8 March, 8.45pm	Live Music, Blue Thunder
Sat 15 March 2.00pm	Super Saturday Rugby, TV coverage
Sun 16 March, 8.00pm	Bingo & Meat Raffle
Sat 22 March, 8.30pm	TV Race Night
Sat 5 April, 8.00pm	Karaoke
Sun 6 April 12.30pm	OPEN DAY come and visit us to see what we have to offer (Bowling green open - weather permitting)
Sun 13 April, 8.00pm	Bingo & Meat Raffle
Sun 20 April, 2.00pm	Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Sat 5 May, 8.00pm	Karaoke



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, WBC Committee

WEETING BOWLS CLUB



WHAT INTERESTS YOU?

SOCIAL EVENTS

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT



It does not seem nearly four years since I joined the **Virtually Norfolk WI** after I must say a 20-year break. In the past I was both Home Economics Chair and then Federation Chair and at that time we had some 240 Wis in the County.

My first big challenge was the worst Foot and Mouth pandemic this country has, I think, ever faced. There was I, a very rookie Fed Chair, faced with the decision should we take a coach load of WI ladies to Wales where there were cases of the disease or stay at home in Norfolk where there were not. I chose to stay in Norfolk rather than risk bringing any infection back and I can tell you, I was not a popular bunny.

Well here we are in a digital age – yes there is not the personal contact which you get in a traditional WI but, by the same token, you do not have to turn out on a bleak winter's night but can stay at home and cuddle your partner/dog or cat as long as you blur the background! We can pick speakers from all over the country, in actual fact from anywhere and members of the Virtuals (as they are called) come from all over the world. There is a minor problem with timings, but you can go for a holiday in New Zealand and still tune into your monthly meeting.

Our last speaker was remarkable- a chap who spoke fluently for some forty minutes about James Stewart's life, imitating JS's voice, concentrating mainly on JS's war effort in which he flew bombers over Germany. We also have a very active Group with a summer festival of free events in August (ever tried Chair Yoga) and getting down to our branch level, we have started both a Book Club, Craft and Chat and Social History Groups. We are now coming up to renewal of annual subscriptions (that allows you access to the WI Learning Portal) so why not join us.

Please contact annmorgan163@gmail.com or give me a ring on 01842 814986,

Calling All Clubs!

If your club would like to submit a report, advertise an event and / or include photographs in the next edition, please contact the editor (details on front page).

Similarly, if you wish to add your club to the list in the centre page, or change contact details, days, times, etc. please let the editor know.

Hockwold Cricket Club



Junior Softball
Winter Indoor
Training

Ages 6-12

Starting
Thursday
20th Feb
18:00 at
Networks,
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IP27 9LF

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO RESERVE PLACES
PLEASE CONTACT PAUL WORTLEY 07775 898246



Would you like to join Methwold Theatre Club?

Have you ever thought about having a go at acting? Would you like to be part of our enthusiastic and friendly group? If so, come and join us. We meet most Tuesday evenings in Methwold.

We are currently planning our activities and performances for the year. These include a Murder Mystery evening in March, and a play in November. You don't have to have to be Judi Dench or Colin Firth, but just want to have some fun! We can find parts for all ages [18+] and abilities. If you don't want to tread the boards, there are always backstage jobs to be done.

To find out more about us, find us on Facebook and send us a message or email methwoldtheatre@gmail.com

Methwold Theatre Club

needs your help to solve

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Saturday 29th March at 7.30

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01842 827428

HOPE TO SEE YOU!



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Air Rifle Range

Not a great deal has happened over the winter months although we look forward to welcoming shooters this year at our first meeting on 29th March from 10am to 1pm. Please come along and try out both relatively easy targets and one or two more stretching targets out to 40m. The feedback has been excellent and we have had some new members join us as a result which is great news. We plan to increase the number of targets as the club grows but for now it's a great fun plinking session that has been enjoyed by both young and old.

We have two ranges, one out to 25m and the other out to 45m. There's a mix of paper, knockdown, clay, chalk disc, tin cans and some interesting snap cap targets fed into the old primer positions of 12g shot gun cartridges. Not easy to hit when it gets a little windy!

We have publicised dates that we expect to hold shoots we do hope you'll join us for what is a great bit of fun and an excellent entry into the sport. Memberships for the Air Rifle club are just £10 per person with fees on the day (cash) at £10 per session for adults and £5 per session for under 14's.



Clay Pigeon Shooting

This continues to be the main area of our friendly club and following on from our Christmas shoot the new season has begun. Last Sunday saw our first competition with a healthy turn out and some excellent shooting seen from across our members. David Edwards was our first winner of the year taking the High Gun with an impressive 21/25 just pipping Robert Steele and Alex Taylor who both scored a respectable 19/25. That left the rest of us to rue our easy misses along with the normal micky taking and friendly banter that makes the club an enjoyable place to shoot. Our next shoot will be on the 23rd February for compact practice followed by our 50 bird ABT competition on the 9th March. All our meetings starts at 2pm.



As we have said before, we are a really friendly little club with the emphasis on enjoyment for all. We have skeet, DTL, ABT, Teal and sporting set ups along with our newest trap here we can set up 25/50 or 75 bird flushes at the single push of a button.

This year's shooting calendar is on our social media and we look forward to seeing both old and new faces at the club again this year.

An Audience With Elly Griffiths

Many of you may remember the author, Elly Griffiths, visiting Weeting two years ago when her book, 'The Last Remains' featured our parish church of St Mary's on the front cover.

Her latest book, 'The Frozen People', has just been published and, although the story does not take place in Norfolk, Elly has been promoting it around East Anglia as she has a strong personal connection with the area.

Our rector, the Rev'd Canon Joan Horan, and I travelled to King's Lynn on

February 12th and met with Elly whilst she was signing copies of her new book and were delighted that she remembered us and her visit to Weeting and wanted an update on the church repairs. She was pleased to learn that the church is back in use and promised to send us signed copies of some of her books for us to auction later to raise some funds for St Mary's. She also asked about Joan's dog, Archie, whom she remembered fondly. She said that a few other people from Weeting were also in the audience, but, unfortunately, we didn't see you – were you one of them?



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From Monday 18th November, anyone wishing to take items to a recycling centre within Norfolk must book a day and time slot for their visit.

Although this may seem rather an inconvenience, it really is very straight forward and will prevent having to queue at busy times. There are 16 bookable slots for every 15 minute period during their working hours and staff will be available to assist you if you need help. You can also book up to a week in advance. You can either book on-line if you have a computer or call a designated number to make your booking as follows:

Booking on-line:

- Type in Norfolk County Council
- Choose Rubbish, recycling & planning
- Choose Rubbish & recycling – this will take you to a list of where all the recycling centres are and, also, how you can dispose of various types of waste, including hazardous, DIY and large items such as freestanding, fixed and fitted furniture.
- Click on the recycling centre of your choice and whether you are bringing household or business / trade waste.
- Click on the day of your choice within the next seven days on the calendar on screen. This will then show you how many free time slots there are available every 15 minutes throughout that chosen day.
- Choose the time slot you want, add your car registration number and select "BOOK"
- An email will be sent back to you confirming your booking.

Booking by telephone:

Call 0344 800 8020

Weeting Parish Council urges everyone to comply with this new regime and please remember that fly-tipping is an offence and fines can be very hefty if you are caught in the act, or the rubbish can be traced back to you.

A word of caution – if someone knocks on your door and offers to take away your DIY rubbish for a fee, make sure they are a bona fide company with a permit to take it away and dispose of it correctly. Not so long ago, a Weeting resident paid someone a significant fee, when they offered to take away his DIY rubbish, only to see, to his profound embarrassment, that this material had been found dumped in the forest off fire ride 23, photographed by dog walkers and the photos placed on the Weeting Facebook page!

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